

REMARKS

As an initial matter, the Examiner has renumbered claims 11-12 as 12-13. However, Applicants respectfully submit this to be in error. The claims were amended during the PCT phase, and claims 1-10 existed upon entry into the national phase. Hence, it is believed that the addition of new claims 11 and 12 was appropriate in the prior office action.

Claims 1-13 have been objected to due to informalities. Claims 1 and 5 have been amended.

Claims 1-13 have been rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as anticipated by Morrill. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

The present invention discloses an Internet communication network to which individual users gain access through several Internet access networks in order to be able to use corresponding services made available through the Internet communication network. Access to the Internet communication network is normally associated with costs and/or fees. To record the individual costs and/or fees, it has been necessary, until now, that the respective Internet user be registered with an Internet operator [Internet access provider] which, in addition to Internet services, provides access to the Internet communication network. A drawback of this approach is that advance registration by the respective user with the respective Internet operator was always required to use the services provided through the Internet communication network. This is time consuming and associated with the additional drawback that the individual Internet user is tied to the Internet operator of his or her choice, both chronologically and geographically. As a result of the instant invention, prior registration by the respective Internet user with a specific Internet operator is no longer required.

According to the invention, at least one commercial interface to cashless payment for the use of the respective Internet communication network is provided in the respective Internet access networks. Within the context of the registration of a mobile communication terminal device in the respective Internet access network, a traffic connection is established with the commercial interface,

in the process of which, following a cashless payment made by the communication terminal device via the commercial interface, the respective Internet access network can be used by the mobile communication terminal device. The method according to the invention differs from the conventional techniques for using Internet communication networks in that, without prior registration with an Internet operator, a mobile communication terminal device is registered with any Internet access network, wherein a traffic relationship to a commercial interface disposed in the Internet access network is established and cashless payment is made within the scope of the registration. Once the cashless payment has been made, the respective Internet user can use specific services in the Internet communication network, depending on the manner of the payment made (e.g., by the minute, by the hour).

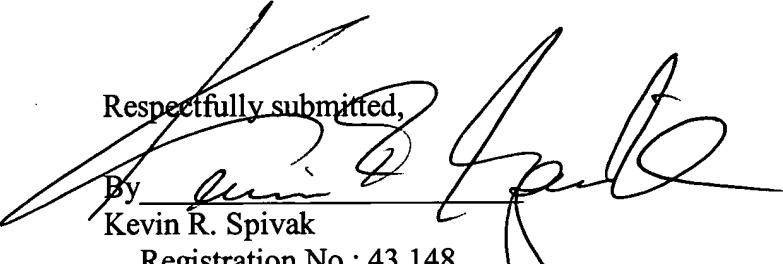
Morrill is directed to the conventional technique as described above. More specifically, Morrill discloses a method for the cashless transfer of sums of money by means of mobile wireless terminal devices (cell phones) via wireless communication networks, wherein the cell phones perform the function of electronic wallets, and wherein an especially secure transfer is made possible within the scope of the method resulting from Morrill. However, the establishment of interfaces to cashless payment for the use of Internet access networks is not disclosed in Morrill. Moreover, registration by means of cashless payment for Internet access is not disclosed in Morrill. Rather, Morrill discloses cashless payment of sums of money with the aid of mobile telephones. Nor does Morrill discloses the use according to the invention of cashless payment in Internet access networks for the registration of Internet users with any freely selectable Internet operator, and the resulting possibility of flexibly using corresponding services through the Internet communication networks.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue. If it is determined that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number given below.

In the event the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. 03-1952 referencing docket no. 449122031000. However, the Commissioner is not authorized to charge the cost of the issue fee to the Deposit Account.

Dated: November 1, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

By 
Kevin R. Spivak

Registration No.: 43,148
MORRISON & FOERSTER LLP
2000 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW Suite 5500
Washington, DC 20006
(202) 887-1525